

Special Education Advisory Panel

Minutes

February 2, 2007

Members Present

Bev Woodhurst
Ray Wicks
DeAnn Fiedler
Ken Southwick
Kris Callen
Dorothy Parks
Deb Hendricks

Karen Coleman
Jerry Neal
Mary Kay Savage
Melissa Frazier
Doreen Frappier
Jeaneal Alexander
Sherri Tucker

Theresa Valdes
Trish Grassa
Amanda Coleman
Martha Crabtree
Steve Viola
Lynda Roberts

Members Not Present

Malinda Darter
Cathy Einhorn
Diane Francis
Marnie Gustafson

Eileen Huth
Pat Jackson
Nina Murphy
Kim Oligschlaeger

Patti Simcosky
Shirley Woods
Joan Zavitsky

DESE Staff Present

Pam Williams
Walt Brown

Guests

Barbara Scheidegger

Eric Remelius

Stefanie Wickers

Copies of handouts distributed at the meeting are available at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/AdvisoryPanel/94142meetings.html>.

Call to Order/Introductions/Approval of Minutes – Bev Woodhurst called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. Ken Southwick made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Trish Grassa seconded the motion. Motion passed with two abstentions.

High School Assessment - Walt Brown, Coordinator of Curriculum and Assessment, indicated that DESE has been reviewing the possibility of replacing the high school MAP tests. One suggestion had been to use the ACT but after a study was done to determine how the ACT would align with the MAP, it was determined that since it did not align completely, it may not be a good option. Another suggestion was the use of end of course testing in selected courses. This option is still be discussed but appears to be a definite possibility. If used, the test would be a multiple choice type of test so it could be quickly scored and returned to the school district so it could be used as part of the grade for that course. All of the accommodations that exist on the MAP test would exist on the end of the course exam.

Panel members raised several questions about how this might affect special education students. One concern was for special education students who do not take the courses that have the end of course exam. How would those students be assessed? Walt indicated he would pass along the panel's concerns during future discussions of the end of course exams. See the following link for a recent DESE press release related to this topic:
<http://dese.mo.gov/news/2007/eoctests.htm>.

Discussion on the Continuation of Public Comment Committee – After some discussion, it was decided the public comment subcommittee would pilot an “unmet needs” question to be posted on the web to receive public comments after each meeting to be reviewed by the subcommittee and shared with the panel at the next meeting. It was suggested the first topic be MAP testing/MAP-A.

Bylaws – Lynda Roberts handed out the suggested changes to the by-laws from the evaluation subcommittee; additions are indicated in blue text. She also handed out the pages from the Part B State Plan that pertain to the panel. After some discussion, DESE was asked to check into the following items. They will be discussed at the April meeting:

- Who would be responsible for providing interpreters, if needed, for the public to attend panel meetings?
- Would the wording in the State Plan have to be changed if the panel wanted to add to the by-laws the option of having an assigned designee for specific panel members?
- If the option of having alumni members would be added to the bylaws, who would be responsible for the costs for them to attend panel meetings?

Ken Southwick made a motion to approve all changes to the bylaws (including typo and word corrections the group noted during its discussion) indicated in blue excluding Article V, Section IV. Kris Callen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

DESE Update

- **Proposed Part B State Regulations** – The proposed Part B State Plan changes have been posted. The public hearings will begin next week. For more information on dates/locations or to view the proposed changes to the State Plan, go to: <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/PublicHearing05/index.html>. The proposed changes to the State Plan will be presented to State Board at their April meeting.
- **Part B APR/SPP** – The APR and SPP have both been submitted to OSEP. They are posted at: <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divspeced/SPPpage.html>.
- **Application** – DESE's annual application for funds is due to OSEP on May 27. There is a sixty day publication period. To review and/or make public comment, go to: <http://dese.mo.gov/divspeced/Administration/ListServPostings/LS02.08.07.html>.
- **State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)**. Missouri was one of several state invited to apply for the SPDG grant which is basically the same as the State Improvement Grant (SIG). The current SIG DESE is operating under is for three years and ends September 2007. DESE will apply for a one year no cost extension. The SPDG will be a five year grant and DESE will apply for \$1.5 million per year for personnel development.
- **Incentive Grants/IMACS (Improvement Monitoring for Accountability and Compliance)** – Identified districts are being invited to apply for incentive grants. IMACS is a web-based monitoring system that DESE is developing which will do many things, one of which will be to obtain information from districts applying for incentive grants. DESE hopes to have IMACS ready to go by the first of March. Due to delays in the IMACS development/testing, the submission date for the incentive grants has been changed from March 1 to April 1. At the April meeting, DESE will be able to report the number of districts that applied for incentive grants, etc. The improvement plan is an integral part of the IMACS system and will be used for submission of grant applications and for districts going through a special education monitoring and/or MSIP. Districts will be able to use IMACS to compare their data to the state targets.
- **Speech Implementer** – Currently, the Board of Healing Arts has decided to ask for an Attorney General's opinion on whether or not DESE has the statutory authority to have the speech implementer model (will probably be a long time before they receive). Another issue the Board of Healing Arts has is with the supervision of speech implementers. The Board of Healing Arts wants to make sure the statute is being implemented appropriately even though this program has been in place for many years.
- **Highly Qualified** – The Missouri plan has been accepted by the U. S. Department of Education.

Working Lunch - Subcommittee Meetings (approximately 1 hour)

Subcommittee Reports

Evaluation – The evaluation subcommittee reviewed the SICC bylaws. It allows for certain members to have a designee. Is this something the panel would be interested in, would all members have a designee, etc.? Panel members suggested that the subcommittee discuss this option further and make a suggestion at a future panel meeting.

Rules and Regulations – The rules and regulations subcommittee suggested panel members attend one of the upcoming public comment hearings for the State Plan. Members were also asked to disseminate the information

to their own groups/listservs encouraging those individuals to review and make comments. Panel members can also send in their own comments to DESE.

Monitoring – Ken Southwick indicated that DESE is collecting child complaint survey information for another year. The subcommittee will review that data when it becomes available. They will also be reviewing the due process information.

Programs – The programs subcommittee appreciated Walt Brown's discussion and thanked Pam Williams for the information provided during the DESE Updates. This information addressed some of their concerns.

The subcommittee would have liked to have received the information on teacher and student caseload sooner so they could have had an opportunity to review and bring possible suggestions to the panel. Pam Williams indicated that DESE attempted to bring the state regulations into alignment with the way the MSIP standards are written. During monitoring, many teachers indicate they do not have any planning time even though it is reported on Core Data. The time gets used to test students, hold IEP meeting, etc. There was discussion regarding class size standards for self contained classrooms and what things needed consideration when assigning students to self contained classrooms (severity, ages, the range of needs as outlined in the IEP, any unique needs as specified in the IEP, other duties assigned to teacher, the level of paraprofessional support provided, etc.). DESE reviewed what was in the previous State Plan and proposed what was thought to be reasonable numbers. DESE hopes to receive feedback from teachers around the state to determine if the numbers were reasonable or not. Pam indicated there is no funding assigned to these numbers but as part of the district's monitoring these numbers will be reviewed.

Martha asked that the panel be kept informed of the status of the Assistant Commissioner vacancy. Lynda Roberts indicated that the chair for the panel was allowed to serve on the interview committee the last time there was an Assistant Commissioner vacancy. Bev Woodhurst indicated she would send a letter to the Commissioner asking that she be allowed to serve on the interview committee.

Nominations – Trish Grassa indicated the panel currently has only one vacant position (parent).

Public Comment – The public comment subcommittee asked if DESE could install a button on the panel's webpage for public comment and as a way for members of the public comment subcommittee to access the comments received. During each panel meeting, two topics would be identified and then posted on the webpage for public comment. It was suggested that index cards could be provided for panel members at each meeting so they could write down suggested topics for the subcommittee. The first topic is "end of course exam/MAP." Links to additional information regarding each topic could be provided. It was suggested a disclaimer be added asking those making comments not to include personally identifiable information and to not expect a response to their comments. DESE will check to see if there is a way to have an account set up so that everyone from the public comment subcommittee could access the emails.

Member Issues/Reports – Pam Williams indicated Stan Johnson has been invited to the next panel meeting to discuss Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and NCLB. If interested in reviewing information regarding the Reauthorization of NCLB, go to www.ed.gov (see Fact Sheets under the Press Room heading) and www.ccsso.org (National Council of Chief State Schools Officers).

Adjournment – Lynda Roberts made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ray Wicks seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.